



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS ADVISORY

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COUNTY RECORDS SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF FLU-RELATED DEATHS

Flu Vaccine Recommended for Everyone

WHAT: County and local health officials will announce the number of influenza-related deaths recorded last flu season, as well as the age breakdown for the three years with the highest number of fatalities.

Officials will also kick off the 2011-2012 vaccination campaign to protect people against influenza and keep them healthy this flu season.

At the Flu Kick-Off event, sponsored by the San Diego Black Nurses Association, 660 doses of vaccine will be provided to adults 18 years or older at no cost.

WHO: **Eric McDonald**, M.D., M.P.H., County Deputy Public Health Officer, Health and Human Services Agency
Mark Sawyer, M.D., Medical Director, San Diego Immunization Partnership (and San Diego Immunization Coalition member)
Syvera Hardy, R.N., Nurse, San Diego Black Nurses Association

WHEN: **Friday, September 23, 2011 at 10:30 a.m.**

WHERE: **Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center**
6401 Skyline Drive

WHY: A record number of influenza-related deaths, 58, were reported during the 2009-10 flu season. Prior to that year, the highest number of flu-related deaths occurred in 2003-2004 when 22 deaths were reported locally.

Annually, influenza contributes to the death of about 30,000 individuals nationwide.

Getting vaccinated is the single most important action people can take to protect themselves from the flu. Other precautions people should take include: washing their hands thoroughly and often or using hand sanitizers; staying away from sick people; avoiding touching their eyes, nose, and mouth; and routinely cleaning commonly touched surfaces.

For more information about influenza, visit www.sdiz.org or call 2-1-1 San Diego.

VISUALS: People getting flu shot. Posters with number of deaths for past eight years, age breakdown, and vaccine recommendations.

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